



Smog Check Program Areas

MAY 1998

AREAS OF THE STATE

All areas of California require Smog Check inspections when a vehicle changes ownership or is registered for the first time in California. Most areas also require testing every two years at the time of registration renewal. The Smog Check program divides the state into three areas with different emissions testing requirements for each:

Enhanced Areas—These areas do not meet federal or state air quality standards for ozone and carbon monoxide and are California's smoggiest urbanized areas and required biennial Smog Checks. Fifteen percent (15%) of the vehicles in these areas must have their biennial Smog Checks performed at Test-Only stations.

Basic Areas—Vehicles in these less smoggy areas must have biennial testing at licensed test-and-repair stations.

Change of Ownership Areas—These more rural areas of the state require emissions testing only when a vehicle changes ownership or is registered for the first time in California.

TESTING EQUIPMENT

New Equipment in Enhanced Areas—Beginning in 1998, no Enhanced Area stations will be able to perform tests in the two-speed idle test mode except in some cases. The new equipment called the BAR-97 Emissions Inspection System (EIS) uses a treadmill-like device called a dynamometer to simulate actual driving conditions. BAR-97 measures oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), hydrocarbons (HC), and carbon monoxide (CO). Large trucks, some four-wheel drive vehicles, and some vehicles with traction control will continue to receive BAR-90 inspections.

BAR-90—Vehicles registered in Basic and Change of Ownership Areas continue to be tested on a BAR-90 system that performs a 2-speed idle test which identifies HC and CO levels only.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

If a vehicle fails a Smog Check inspection and the owner cannot afford to make the repairs, there are two programs that provide financial help:

The **Repair Cost Waiver** allows a vehicle to be registered immediately without passing its Smog Check inspection. To be eligible, a vehicle owner must first make some emissions-related repairs to the vehicle at a licensed repair station. The owner then brings the vehicle and all repair-related invoices to one of the state's Referee Centers, where the vehicle is inspected to determine eligibility. The waiver is valid for two years and can only be issued once during a consumer's ownership of that vehicle.

The amount required to be spent on emissions-related repairs varies depending on the area in which the vehicle

is registered. The owner must spend at least \$450 on emissions-related repairs in **all Basic Areas** and **some Enhanced Areas** to qualify for a waiver from any remaining repairs.

All other **Enhanced Areas** use a sliding scale limit (\$90-450, depending on the model year) to determine waiver eligibility. These areas will begin to use the \$450 waiver amount in 1998, when BAR-97 testing begins.

The **Economic Hardship Extension** also allows a vehicle to be registered immediately without passing its Smog Check inspection. Once issued, the vehicle owner has up to 2 years to complete the necessary repairs that bring the vehicle fully into compliance with federal and state emissions standards. To obtain an extension, a vehicle must be brought to a Referee Center, where tests may be performed. The Economic Hardship Extension may only be used once by an owner during his or her ownership of the vehicle and may not be used if a Repair Cost Waiver was issued for the vehicle in the previous Smog Check inspection. Starting in 1998, only low-income motorists will qualify for an Extension, but they may need to spend up to \$250 on emissions-related repairs.

Neither the Repair Cost Waiver nor the Economic Hardship Extension can be obtained if the vehicle has a tampered emissions system, is being registered for the first time in California, or is being sold.

TECHNICIAN LICENSES

The **Advanced Emission Specialist (EA) Technician License** allows an individual to inspect, diagnose, adjust, repair, and certify the emissions control systems of vehicles registered in all areas of the state, including **Enhanced Areas**. Only technicians with this license may use the new BAR-97 equipment, including those who work for a Basic Area station that has invested in the BAR-97 equipment to serve its Enhanced Area customers.

The **Basic Area (EB) Technician License** allows an individual to inspect, diagnose, adjust, repair, and certify the emissions control systems of vehicles registered in the state's **Basic** and **Change of Ownership Areas**.

The **Unlimited (EU) Technician License** may be used statewide until it expires, and must then be replaced with either an EA or EB license.

The **Intern (EI) Technician License** allows an individual, under the direction of a supervising, licensed (non-EO) smog technician, to *perform repairs or make adjustments* to the emissions control systems of vehicles that have failed a Smog Check. The Intern Technician license may be used statewide, but it is *nonrenewable* and expires after two years. This license does not allow the licensee to perform Smog Check inspections.

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These counties are **Change of Ownership Areas only**:

Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Del Norte, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Lake, Lassen, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Mono, Plumas, Sierra, Siskiyou, Trinity, and Tuolumne.

These counties are **Basic Areas only**: Alameda, Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Glenn, Kings, Madera, Marin, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, San Benito, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, and Yuba.

Orange County is an **Enhanced Area**.

These counties contain a mixture of **Enhanced, Basic, and Change of Ownership Areas**.

EL DORADO COUNTY

Much of this county is a **Change of Ownership Area**.

These ZIPs are **Basic Areas**: 95613, 95614, 95619, 95623, 95630, 95633-95636, 95643, 95651, 95656, 95664, 95667, 95672, 95682, 95684, 95709, 95720, 95721, 95725, 95726, 95727, 95735, 95762.

FRESNO COUNTY

Much of this county is a **Basic Area**.

Only these ZIPs are **Enhanced Areas**: 93611-93613, 93626, 93650, 93700-93712, 93714-93718, 93720-93722, 93724-93729, 93740, 93741, 93744, 93745, 93747, 93750, 93755, 93759-93765, 93771-93780, 93782, 93784, 93786, 93790-93794, 93844, 93888.

KERN COUNTY

Much of this county is a **Basic Area**.

These ZIPs are **Enhanced Areas**: 93220, 93241, 93263, 93300-93309, 93311-93313, 93380-93390, 93399.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Much of this county is an **Enhanced Area**.

The ZIP 90704, Catalina Island, is exempt.

PLACER COUNTY

Much of this county is a **Basic Area**.

These ZIPs are **Enhanced Areas**: 95650, 95661, 95677, 95678, 95746, 95747, 95765.

Only these ZIPs are **Change of Ownership Areas**: 96140-96143, 96145, 96146, 96148.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Much of this county is an **Enhanced Area**.

These ZIPs are **Basic Areas**: 92220, 92223, 92230, 92240, 92241, 92254, 92276, 92302, 92306, 92330, 92331, 92348, 92349, 92355, 92361, 92362, 92370, 92380, 92381, 92390, 92395, 92396, 92530-92532, 92536, 92539, 92548, 92549, 92561-92564, 92570-92572, 92584-92587, 92589-92593, 92595, 92596, 92599.

These ZIPs are **Change of Ownership Areas**: 92225, 92226, 92239, 92272.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Much of this county is an **Enhanced Area**.

These ZIPs are **Basic Areas**: 94571, 95615, 95632, 95638, 95639, 95641, 95680, 95683, 95690, 95693.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Much of this county is a **Basic Area**.

These ZIPs are **Enhanced Areas**: 91701, 91708-91710, 91729, 91730, 91737, 91739, 91743, 91758, 91759, 91761-91764, 91784-91786, 91798, 92313, 92316, 92318, 92324, 92334-92337, 92346, 92350, 92354, 92357, 92359, 92369, 92373-92377, 92399-92418, 92420, 92423, 92424, 92427.

These ZIPs are **Change of Ownership Areas**: 92242, 92267, 92280, 92323, 92332, 92340, 92351, 92363, 92364, 92366, 92393.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Much of this county is an **Enhanced Area**.

These ZIPs are **Basic Areas**: 91917, 91935, 92039, 92053, 92061, 92065, 92082, 92090.

These ZIPs are **Change of Ownership Areas**:

91905, 91906, 91916, 91931, 91934, 91948, 91962, 91963, 91980, 91987, 91990-91995, 92004, 92036, 92059, 92060, 92066, 92070, 92086, 92096.

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

Much of this county is a **Basic Area**.

These ZIPs are **Enhanced Areas**: 95201-95213, 95215, 95219, 95231, 95234, 95267, 95269.

SOLANO COUNTY

Much of this county is a **Basic Area**.

These ZIPs are **Enhanced Areas**: 95687, 95688, 95696.

SONOMA COUNTY

Much of this county is a **Basic Area**.

These ZIPs are **Change of Ownership Areas**: 94922, 94923, 95412, 95413, 95419, 95421, 95425, 95430, 95436, 95441, 95445, 95446, 95448, 95450, 95462, 95465, 95471, 95473, 95480, 95486, 95497.

STANISLAUS COUNTY

Much of this county is a **Basic Area**.

These ZIPs are **Enhanced Areas**: 95307, 95319, 95350-95358, 95368.

VENTURA COUNTY

Much of this county is an **Enhanced Area**.

These ZIPs are **Basic Areas**: 93015, 93016, 93022-93024, 93040.

YOLO COUNTY

Much of this county is a **Basic Area**.

These ZIPs are **Enhanced Areas**: 95605, 95616-95618, 95691.